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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 5-7, 2016

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GHOMESHI TRIAL DAY 3

metroNEWS
metroVIEWS

Meet the very first Syrian refugee baby born in Calgary — and possibly Canada.
JENNIFER FRIESEN/METRO

BORN ON CANADIAN SOIL

New hope for a new generation

metroNEWS

Tory's pitch to Ottawa

INVESTMENT

Big-city mayors head to capital in search of federal funds

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Mr. Tory's gone to Ottawa to make his pitch for federal infrastructure funding, and this time someone will be listening.

Mayor John Tory is in the capital as part of the Big City Mayors meeting with federal officials — including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Topics on the agenda range from Syrian refugees to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. But the big thing on Tory's mind — and that of many other mayors — is federal dollars for city infrastructure.

The meeting is a "critical" one, said Matti Siemiatycki, an urban planning professor at the University of Toronto.

"Big cities have vast needs and if the mayors can come out and speak with one voice, I think they'll find a receptive audience."

That's in contrast to the way things played out during a decade of Conservative rule. Under Stephen Harper's government, money given to cities often came with strings attached, including strict timelines and demands for public-private partnerships, Siemiatycki said.

"When you put that kind of criteria on spending, it leads to projects being built that aren't necessarily the best projects," he said. "Municipalities will search for projects that meet the criteria rather than choose the projects that meet their priorities."

If Tory and his colleagues can convince Ottawa to loosen the criteria for federal investment, it will be a big win for cities.

Tory has made it clear he expects some of the money to go towards much-needed repairs to Toronto Community Housing buildings along with projects like the downtown relief subway line.

$60B

Justin Trudeau's **promised investment in municipal infrastructure** over 10 years.

Siemiatycki is optimistic that will happen, especially given the federal government's list of priorities for investment, including transit and affordable housing, echoes what municipal leaders have been asking for in recent years.

"To their credit, I think the federal government is listening," he said. "But it's time for the 'show me phase.' They've got to put that listening into action."

What the mayors want: Page 12

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Julian Assange says he will exit embassy and risk arrest after UN panel's ruling. **World**

A jab against 'pro-rape' blogger

THE metro EFFECT

Roosh V nixes meetups, but boxers proceed with rally

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A Toronto women's boxing club is hosting a rally outside city hall on Saturday to teach people how to throw a punch — all inspired by "pro-rape" blogger Roosh V.

Roosh, whose real name is Daryush Valizadeh, caused an international stir this week when he organized 165 "meetups" in 43 countries for men who follow his philosophies.

Savoy Howe, owner of the Toronto Newsgirls, caused her own stir when she told Metro about her plans to crash Valizadeh's Toronto meetup of "d*****bags" with her squad of female boxers. Valizadeh has since cancelled his meetings, saying he could no longer ensure the men would be safe.

Howe's story spread around the world, and some have credited her with stopping Valizadeh in his tracks. "But I don't think it was just us; women are standing up all over the place," she said.

Women from around the world have been in contact, sharing their stories, Howe said. That includes a woman from England who's getting ready to testify against her rapist and was inspired by Howe to start boxing.

A middle-aged survivor of violence from Florida contacted her to say she's proud of being able to learn self-defence techniques — including a particular one that can break an aggressor's nose.

"A lot of women don't have a move like that in their back pocket," said Howe. "That's why Saturday night we want to kick-start that, show women that they can" fight back.

With no official meetup to crash, Howe has decided to move ahead with an event aimed at empowerment.

Fight Factory — which will see Howe's boxers don hand pads and teach others how to punch — runs from 8 to 9 p.m. Saturday in Nathan Phillips Square.

"It'll be an opportunity for anyone who wants to come and learn how to throw a punch, safely, to come out," she said.

Howe has also invited martial arts studios to join the crowd.

The photo that started the showdown: Metro's photo of the Toronto Newsgirls team helped push the campaign against Roosh V to new levels, making its way into publications around the world. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

WHO'S ROOSH?

Roosh V is an American blogger who denies he's pro-rape, but his teachings include telling men that if a women says "no" it actually means "Don't give up now." His blog argues all rape allegations made publicly are false, and women shouldn't work out of the home or vote.

A post arguing rape should be legal on private property caused the most controversy — but Valizadeh claims it was "a thought experiment" or "satire."

Roosh V YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT

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MAPPED TORONTO'S DEADLY STREETS

Five pedestrian traffic fatalities recorded to date in 2016

1 Kennedy Road & Ellesmere Road
Sunday, Jan. 3 — A 39-year-old man was hit by an SUV and killed while crossing Kennedy Road, south of Ellesmere Road.

2 Sheppard Avenue East & Chichester Place
Sunday, Jan. 17 — A 79-year-old man was hit by a crossover SUV and killed while crossing Sheppard Avenue near Chichester Place.

3 Bayview Avenue & Eglinton Avenue East
Friday, Jan. 15 — An 85-year-old woman was hit by a crossover SUV while crossing Bayview Avenue at Eglinton. She later died in hospital.

4 Dufferin Street & Armstrong Avenue
Saturday, Jan. 30 — A 90-year-old woman was hit by a car and killed while crossing Dufferin Street, south of Armstrong Avenue.

MOST RECENT FATALITY
Dundas Street West & Poplar Avenue
Thursday, Jan 28 — A 49-year-old woman was crossing Dundas Street West when she was hit by a left-turning private bus. She was taken to hospital and succumbed to her injuries on Feb. 2.

TEXT: LUKE SIMCOE/METRO
GRAPHIC: ANDRES PLANA/METRO

Jail time urged for daycare operators

DAY NURSERIES ACT

Guilty verdict after girl, 2, found dead in Vaughan home

The operators of an unlicensed Vaughan daycare where a little girl died in July 2013 have been found guilty of breaking the Day Nurseries Act.

Olena Panfilova, Ruslan Panfilov and their adult daughter Karyna Rabadanova were found to have operated illegal daycares out of neighbouring homes at 343 and 345 Yellowood Circle.

Calling it "the worst case" of an illegal daycare business the province has ever seen, Crown lawyer Abel Fok argued in Newmarket provincial court Thursday that the defendants should be jailed for three to six months.

Defence lawyer Richard Forget contended a fine of $10,000 to $20,000 is appropriate.

Justice of the Peace Marie-Christine Smythe will pass sentence on March 18.

Eva Ravikovich, a doe-eyed two-year-old girl, was found lifeless at the home daycare at 343 Yellowood on July 7, 2013.

Eva Ravikovich CONTRIBUTED

Fok told the court that police entered 345 Yellowood after a frantic parent arrived the night Eva died. They found the nine other children, as well as more than a dozen dogs in an area that smelled of urine, next to a room where three children were sleeping.

The two-storey house was sealed by health inspectors the next day, when a York Region health official documented unsanitary conditions including a garbage bag of diapers in the kitchen, expired food in the fridge and traces of potentially deadly listeria bacteria.

Home daycares are allowed to operate without a licence if they look after no more than five children with unrelated parents. The trial had heard from a daycare inspector that at least 35 children were registered at the business.

"The defendants clearly displayed an utter disregard for the Day Nurseries Act and deliberately flouted the law," Fok said in his closing argument.

He said the daycare operators were warned that they were illegally overcrowded in November 2012, even though government inspectors failed to follow up on all complaints.

"The deception to the parents, the deception to the ministry to flout the rules, that takes this case into a whole different realm," Fok said.

Fok described tax documents on income that the daycare operators claimed in 2011 and 2012, which showed collective incomes for the three defendants at $180,000 to $200,000 per year. He also pointed to the testimony of three parents at the trial, who said Panfilova claimed she had a licence.

Forget argued the operators displayed concern and good care for the children by buying new cribs and toys, for example, adding that the homes became a sort of "cultural centre" for Russian speakers north of Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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DeCoutere tells of 'ironic' duet

GHOMESHI TRIAL

Actress says accused joined her on 'Hit Me Baby' karaoke

The only complainant whose name is not covered by a publication ban took the stand Thursday in the sexual assault trial of Jian Ghomeshi.

Trailer Park Boys actor Lucy DeCoutere said that months after Ghomeshi allegedly choked and slapped her, they met at a karaoke event in Banff, where he joined her onstage mid-song to perform a duet of Britney Spears song "Hit Me Baby One More Time."

She called the song choice "intensely ironic."

After the alleged assault, they also interacted following Ghomeshi's infamous Billy Bob Thornton interview on his CBC Radio show Q, when she posted on Facebook in support of the actor. Ghomeshi responded by email to say that her message felt like it was a slap in the face.

When cross-examination began, Ghomeshi's lawyer, Marie Henein, questioned how well DeCoutere could recall the night because she had apparently added more details while testifying in court that did not emerge in 19 police and media interviews.

Henein said DeCoutere had added details about pauses between slaps and kissing Ghomeshi good night.

The lawyer pressed DeCoutere on why she chose to cuddle and kiss Ghomeshi that night, and attend several events with him over the following week.

DeCoutere responded she did so because the "way he was with me after he assaulted (me), I felt like I missed something. I was just checking."

Henein asked why she originally said she did not want to press charges, but later wrote in messages that she wanted Ghomeshi "f–ing decimated" and "the guy is a s–show."

> **It is impossible to consent to something that you are not asked.**
> Lucy DeCoutere

DeCoutere allegedly told a friend that she was excited for the trial because it would be "theatre at its best," according to Henein.

The defence lawyer referred to the emails exchanged between the duo. DeCoutere earlier described her initial conversation with Ghomeshi at the Banff television festival in 2003 as friendly, playful, flirtatious and cheeky.

She said she left thinking he might be a fun person to spend time with, and they exchanged "sort of hilarious emails that were cheeky and fun" over the next while.

After meeting for dinner in Toronto at a later date, DeCoutere agreed to go back to his home, adding that it was "not like he was going to kill me when we went back to his house."

She said she had no interest in having sex with Ghomeshi, but knew there was a chance they might be intimate. On the walk to his home, DeCoutere said he repeatedly tried to kiss her.

Once back at his home, she alleges that they began kissing suddenly and Ghomeshi hit her three times and began choking so she couldn't breathe for about 10 seconds. DeCoutere said she consented to the kissing, but was not able to consent to the choking or slapping, which began almost immediately after the kissing.

"I was just receiving it," she said. "It is impossible to consent to something that you are not asked."

The actor, who is also a Royal Canadian Air Force captain, said the slaps were "hard enough that it got my attention. Not hard enough to leave a mark."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In this courtroom sketch, witness Lucy DeCoutere testifies in the trial of Jian Ghomeshi.
ALEXANDRA NEWBOULD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DEATH

Officer's body pulled from lake

The body recovered from Lake Ontario on Thursday was that of a Toronto police officer.

Toronto police are not releasing the identity of the officer, but police sources said it was Const. Darius Garda, from downtown's 51 Division.

Garda was a beloved young member of the force who, according to sources, had been struggling with PTSD ever since he was involved in a fatal shooting involving a mentally ill man, Wieslaw Duda.

Duda was shot dead in April 2010 at Cherry and Commissioners streets. Toronto Police Marine Unit found the police officer's body not far from there, just before noon near the Polson Pier.

"He was a different person after," a police source said, referring to the killing of Duda. The source added that officers at 51 Division are "absolutely devastated."

Garda was a "very sensitive" officer who was less of a traditional 'tough guy' cop and more like a social worker, a police source said. "He was such a professional officer, very well liked."

On Wednesday police had reported that a man had fallen into the water in the area of Polson and Cherry streets. A post-mortem will take place on Friday, Toronto police said Thursday.

The family of the officer is requesting privacy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Darius Garda CONTRIBUTED

CONTRACT TALKS

City employees in strike position

More than 28,000 unionized City of Toronto, including many trash collectors, could be off the job in just over two weeks if union and city negotiators can't agree on new contracts.

The provincial labour ministry issued "no board" reports Thursday confirming talks are at an impasse.

That reports put CUPE Local 416 "outside" workers in a legal strike position — and the city in a legal lockout position — at 12:01 a.m. on Feb. 19. If no contract is reached, the inside workers in Local 79 could join them one day later.

There is no hard deadline, however. The two sides could continue negotiating indefinitely after those dates.

The 5,400 outside workers include garbage collectors east of Yonge Street; homes west of Yonge are serviced by contracted workers not affected by the talks.

Others in Local 416 include staff in water and parks departments.

The 23,100 inside workers include nurses, planners, social service employees and ambulance dispatchers.

As well as a negotiated settlement or work disruption, there's another possibility — the city could impose new work terms or conditions, which would likely trigger a lockout. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Muzzo pleads guilty, out on bail

COURT

Conditions include house arrest and no alcohol

A sign on a lawn in the Kleinburg neighbourhood. CONTRIBUTED

Marco Muzzo. CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jennifer Neville-Lake said there is nothing Marco Muzzo could say to make her feel better about losing her three children and her father, as Muzzo was released on bail Thursday after pleading guilty to impaired driving charges.

Muzzo had been held in custody since the Sept. 27 crash in Vaughan that killed Daniel Neville-Lake, 9; Harrison, 5, and Milly, 2, along with 65-year-old Gary Neville.

"I'm a bit shaken today," Neville-Lake told the media outside the courthouse Thursday afternoon. "It was incredibly difficult to hear the names of my children read out in court along with the charges."

She held up two photos of her eldest son, Daniel, who she said would have been celebrating his 10th birthday on Wednesday.

"Instead, we, as his parents, celebrated — if you can even call it that — at his grave," Neville-Lake said.

Justice Michelle Fuerst approved the bail request after Muzzo, 29, pleaded guilty to four charges of impaired operation of a vehicle causing death.

Muzzo also pleaded guilty to two charges of impaired operation of a vehicle causing bodily harm for injuries sustained by the children's grandmother and great-grandmother.

He will return to Newmarket court for sentencing on Feb. 23.

Muzzo held his fiancée's hand as he was shuttled into a white SUV parked outside the main door of the courthouse Thursday afternoon.

As part of the bail conditions offered by Greenspan in court, Muzzo would reside with his mother in Kleinburg, and abstain from alcohol and driving.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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BY THE NUMBERS

Police recruits reflect diversity

Toronto police set a record Thursday with its new class of recruits — 47.7 per cent are women. Of the 44 new faces, 21 are women and 15 are visible minorities. It's the result of a strategy aimed at boosting diversity. In 2010, 18 per cent of Toronto's uniformed officers were women and 19 per cent visible minorities. By 2012, 30 per cent of officers were female, and 21 per cent visible minorities. In the mid-90s, the force was about 94 per cent white males. JESSICA SMITH CROSS METRO

47.7%

Percentage of new recruits who are women

34.1%

are visible minorities

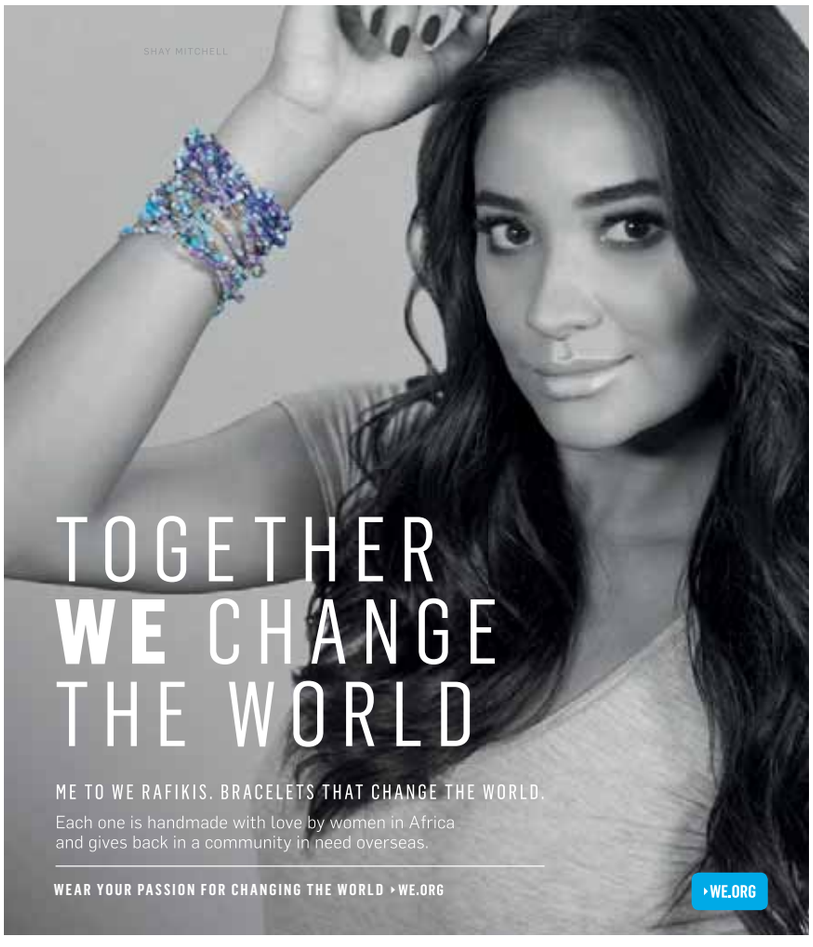
Some of the new TPS recruits at Thursday's graduation ceremony. COURTESY SARA FARUQI/TORONTO POLICE SERVICE

completed post-secondary education **93.2%**

have military or policing experience **40.9%**

31 of 44

speak a second language, including Afrikaans, American Sign Language, Arabic, Bengali, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Creole, Croatian, Filipino, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Hungarian, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Mandarin, Patois, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi and Romanian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REAL ESTATE

Magnate's mansion for sale

Conrad Black's ancestral home in Toronto's exclusive Bridle Path enclave is for sale.

The mansion at 26 Park Lane Circle, which was built by Black's father, will go up for auction on March 8.

The former media baron and author inherited the home which boasts nine bedrooms, 11 bathrooms, a guest apartment and a coach house on a 6.6-acre property.

"It is a big house for two people. We will be abroad a good deal, and moving to a more manageable home will be a convenience to us now as our careers have evolved," wrote Black in a statement.

The home will be auctioned off by Concierge Auctions of New York in conjunction with real estate agent Barry Cohen from Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc., who said the property has an estimated value of $21.8 million.

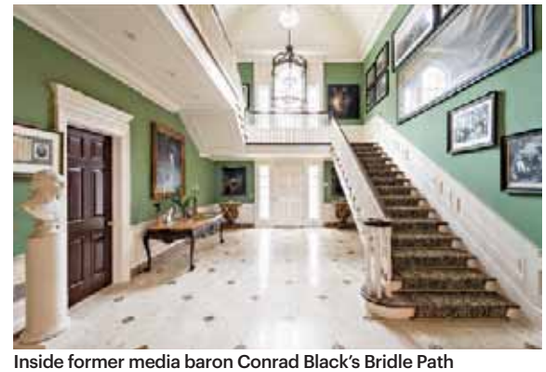
"Conrad and Barbara Black … are at a point in their lives where they no longer need such a large space," said Adam Daifallah, the Black family's spokesperson. "The children have all moved out, upkeep is time consuming and costly, they rarely entertain, and, given their frequent travels to Europe and elsewhere, they decided it was time for something more manageable in Toronto."

The mansion, which was built in six stages, is essentially an urban castle with everything from an indoor pool and spa to a chapel that a press release points out was consecrated by two cardinals.

Designed by famous architect Thierry W. Despont, who built homes for the likes of Bill Gates and Gianni Agnelli, the home is described as "nestled amongst trees" at the end of a "winding, romantic driveway."

Black has sold off a 2.8 acre slice of Park Lane property, which was traditionally used as the service entrance to the estate, at an asking price of $7.2 million. As well, Black's mansion in Palm Beach sold for the equivalent of $26 million in 2011 and he reportedly sold his London townhouse for more than $23.4 million.

Black was once one of the world's most powerful and influential figures with more than 500 publications under his banner by the late 1990s. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Inside former media baron Conrad Black's Bridle Path 23,000-sq.-ft. mansion. COURTESY VINCENZO PISTRITTO PHOTOGRAPHY

FAMED GUESTS

The Georgian-style mansion has hosted Richard Nixon, Margaret Thatcher and even Elton John.

Rising temperature could raise Zika risk

HEALTH

Climate, sex could spread disease here

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

The yellow fever mosquito, a.k.a. Aedes aegypti, spreads Zika virus. It can't survive Canadian temperatures, but a York U. prof says that may change. MUHAMMAD MAHDI KARIM/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Torontonians have little to fear from the Zika virus — at least for now. But it could be a different story in a hundred years.

The Aedes aegypti mosquito that spreads the disease — linked to a spike in birth defects in Brazil — can't survive Canada's cooler climate. But as global temperatures rise, that could change, says York University professor Huaiping Zhu.

His research involves the mathematical modelling of mosquito populations. Cousin species of Aedes aegypti are established as far north as southern Ontario, and if temperatures continue to warm, it's possible the mosquito could arrive in Canada within the next century.

"We're trying to determine under what conditions and when the Zika virus will become a problem in Canada," he said.

The Centers for Disease Control have confirmed the virus (which lies in the human body about 10 days) can be transmitted sexually. If Zika does arrive in Canada, Zhu said that would be the likely vector.

"You need to be careful if you travel to the endemic zone," he said. Put bluntly: Wear condoms.

Weather has already played a role in Zika's spread. Warmer temperatures are ideal for mosquito breading and may have led to the outbreak in Brazil, he said.

GET THE FACTS

The Zika virus has spread to 26 countries outside Brazil, including the U.S. Symptoms are generally mild (fever, headache, joint and muscle pain). The disease only poses a serious risk to pregnant women.

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San Yoges, general manager of The Office Pub, is getting ready to serve up a huge Super Bowl feast. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

All set for a giant party

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Pub books almost double the tables as last year

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Nine thousand chicken wings.

That's the number San Yoges is banking on frying up and dishing out to hungry fans during Sunday's Super Bowl 50 — not to mention all the beer … and everything else that goes with one giant party.

"It's pretty unbelievable the interest out there," he said Thursday as preparations were in full swing at his bar near King and John streets. "You'd think everyone wants to watch this game. We've been taking reservations non-stop for the past few days."

Nearly 200 people have already booked tables to take in what's being dubbed the Cam Newton-Peyton Manning showdown between the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos. That's almost double the number last year, said Yoges.

All in all, it means lots and lots of extras at the pub.

On top of the chicken wings — more than 10 times the number ordered for the average day — there's extra staff and extra suds.

Generally, The Office can rest assured that eight to 10 cases of beer will be enough to make it through a night. Sunday will see 80 kegs on hand to quench the thirsty masses.

"You could say we're doubling or tripling everything, fries, hot sauce, garlic, lettuce, napkins, everything," Yoges said, adding the only thing that may stay at normal quantities is ice. No need for that, he said: "Everyone drinks beer at Super Bowl."

It's shaping up to be the busiest day of the year for Yoges. And, despite being a big football fan, there's a pretty good chance he won't be watching the game.

"I guess business comes first in this case," he said.

The game's big numbers

The Super Bowl has been named the most watched televised event in North America. Much like the Romans in the times of the gladiators, it's a chance for people in both Canada and the U.S. to celebrate and overindulge. Themed parties, prop bets, over-the-top commercials, and overworked sewer lines are just a few of the things that accompany the colossal event.

1

The silence of the chicken

Chips, beer, pizza and hot dogs sound like a dream, but chicken wings are the real food of choice for Super Bowl fans.

2

100,000,000 chicken wings will be eaten in Canada

It might seem like a stretch, but Canadians don't fall short on the wing-eating.

That's almost 3 chicken wings for every Canadian

3

The amount Canadians are expected to spend on chicken wings on Super Bowl Sunday.

4

Endless eyes

For business owners, the game is a great advertising opportunity if you can afford it.

The average number of Canadians who tuned in for the 2015 Super Bowl.

Although it may seem like a big difference, more Canadians watched the big event in proportion to the U.S.

Almost 1 in 3 Canadians tuned in

Almost 1 in 4 tuned in south of the border

5

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GRAPHIC BY ANDRES PLANA

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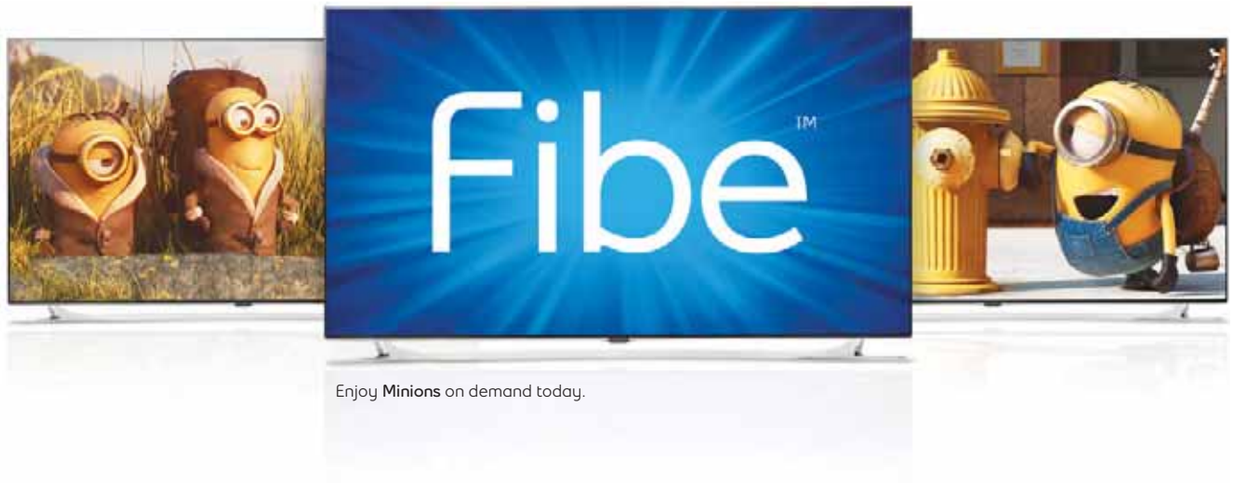

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Big-city mayors seeking big bucks

The mayors of Canada's largest cities are in Ottawa to make their pitches for federal funding, and this time, the prime minister will hear their requests. Metro compiled a list of "The Big Asks" from seven of the nation's biggest hubs. Here's what the leaders are looking for from the federal government.

1 Halifax
Mayor Mike Savage said Thursday he's looking for as much money as he can get from the federal government for infrastructure projects in his city. He said there is $2 billion in work that needs to be done over the next two decades to bring the city's aging water infrastructure up to environmental standards and to sustain the city's growing population.

2 Ottawa
Mayor Jim Watson is asking the federal government for funding for the $3-billion Phase 2 of the city's light rail transit. Watson noted they already have that commitment from the prime minister. However, he is also asking for funding for affordable housing, and for the feds to cut the red tape so municipalities can get the infrastructure cash quicker.

3 Toronto
Mayor John Tory has made it clear he wants federal funding to be "fair and stable" so cities can budget effectively. In terms of specifics, he's asking the federal government to cover one-third of the estimated $2.6 billion in repair backlog at Toronto Community Housing. Tory also wants federal cash for projects like the city's downtown relief line and a waterfront LRT.

4 Winnipeg
Mayor Brian Bowman has three priorities: transit, infrastructure and the environment. While he wouldn't get into specific dollar amounts, Winnipeg has several massive projects on the horizon, including the second phase of a six-phase rapid transit system ($590 million) and preventing the city's ancient sewers from overflowing into the rivers ($1.2 billion).

5 Calgary
Mayor Naheed Nenshi is also asking for infrastructure money. He wants a block funding setup with reporting mechanisms that allow cities to use federal money for projects right away, such as in the area of local affordable housing. He also hopes the mayors talk about cities' roles in climate change and how they can support the feds in what they're trying to accomplish.

6 Edmonton
Mayor Don Iveson is hoping the "unprecedented" access that big city mayors are getting from the federal government this week could mean support for social and affordable housing, as well as funding for the city's LRT. Iveson said over the next decade he would like to be able to expand light rail transit.

7 Vancouver
Mayor Gregor Robertson plans to leverage $250 million worth of city-owned land to entice the federal government into building new affordable housing. He is asking the feds for $500 million over five years to build 3,500 units of social housing on 20 city-owned sites. It's the largest housing proposal ever made by a civic government to Canada.

Baby Mohammad Al Masalma JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

SYRIAN CRISIS

Calgary opens arms to first refugee baby

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The very first Syrian refugee baby born in Calgary — and possibly in Canada — since the government's commitment to resettle 25,000 Syrian refugees was welcomed into the world in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

But the birth of baby Mohammad Al Masalma has quite the story to go along with it.

"I wasn't expecting to be here when I had the baby," said the mother, Seham Talab through a translator. "But, I feel so grateful."

Talab went in for a clinic appointment Tuesday, not expecting to have her baby that day, and was rushed to the hospital where she was told she was in labour — already four centimetres dilated.

While husband Yahya Al Masalma was at home caring for their other children, two volunteers from the Syrian Refugee Support group stepped up to help Talab through the delivery.

> "We want to thank everybody for the wonderful sense of community we're feeling."
> Yahya Al Masalma

"She's in a new country, she doesn't speak any English and in her country they do things very differently there," said Ronnie Saadeh, who rushed to be by Talab's side when she heard what was happening.

Sereen Bishawi, the other volunteer who helped Talab through the birth of Mohammad said it was actually the first time they had ever met her.

Talab, who, along with her husband came direct to Canada from the Syrian border town of Daraa, said she feels like Saadeh and Bishawi are now her family.

"I feel like they're my sisters," said Talab.

"They made me feel calm and translated between me and the doctors during labour."

WILDLIFE

Online petition seeks 'real life' for Japan's oldest elephant

What struck Ulara Nakagawa when she first saw Japan's oldest elephant was how she resembled a figurine in a "concrete prison."

"There was absolutely nothing else for her to do," the Vancouver woman wrote in a blog post about the 69-year-old animal. "It was beyond painful to take in."

Nakagawa's observations about the elderly creature has inspired an online petition that has garnered nearly 380,000 supporters who are demanding the Inokashira Park Zoo in Tokyo give the elephant, named Hanako, either "a real life or send her to sanctuary."

Nakagawa is working with online supporters to find the best scenario for the elephant to live out her final years under conditions wildlife groups agree would be more humane.

"I think people understand time is running out for her," the 35-year-old said in an interview on Thursday. "There's something that struck a chord. I'm sure the imagery has a lot to do with it."

The elephant, whose name translates to "flower child," is visited by hundreds of thousands of people a year.

REQUEST

If an expert finds that moving Hanako would be too dangerous, they will request a more spacious enclosure with amenities, such as a heated pool and sand piles.

After the swell of online support, Nakagawa began working with the woman who started the petition. They are urging the zoo allow an independent expert examine the elephant.

"This would determine whether she could be moved overseas or within the country," she said.

Keepers at the zoo have acknowledged it's not fully equipped to keep an elephant. Hanako will be its last, said deputy director Hidemasa Hori.

But the aging elephant doesn't like changes and shouldn't be moved, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hanako stands in her pen at Inokashira Park Zoo near Tokyo.
EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 A Syrian boy walks in Kawergosk refugee camp in northern Iraq carrying a plate with boiled potatoes. Syrian refugees in Iraq are struggling to feed themselves as cash-strapped aid agencies scale back assistance.

2 Rania, a Syrian refugee, prepares a meal for her family in their tent in Kawergosk refugee camp in northern Iraq.

3 Fauzia Ahmad holds her son inside their tent in Kawergosk refugee camp. Ahmad's family has not received a food donation in several months. PHOTOS: ALICE MARTINS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Assange asylum to end with UN ruling

UNITED NATIONS

WikiLeaks chief risking arrest, but expects to walk free

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange says he will step out of the Ecuadorian embassy in London on Friday after more than three years of self-imposed refuge from British authorities.

The exit is timed to come one hour after a UN panel on arbitrary detention is set to release its findings on his case.

In a statement posted on the WikiLeaks Twitter account, Assange said he would accept arrest if the UN panel ruled against him, but expected to be allowed to walk free if the ruling was in his favour.

If the UN finds that his confinement to the embassy is lawful, Assange said, "I shall exit the embassy at noon on Friday to accept arrest by British police as there is no meaningful prospect of further appeal.

"However, should I prevail and the state parties be found to have acted unlawfully, I expect the immediate return (of) my passport and the termination of further attempts to arrest me," he wrote.

The Swedish foreign ministry confirmed Thursday that it had seen a copy of the panel's findings and that it had ruled Assange's detention is "arbitrary."

British authorities say their operation to arrest Assange hasn't been altered, and "should he leave the Embassy (police) will make every effort to arrest him."

Assange was granted asylum by Ecuador and has been living in its embassy in London since June 2012, shortly after he lost his bid to overturn an extradition request from Sweden, where he is wanted for questioning about an alleged sexual assault.

While he has no problem facing those allegations, Assange's lawyer says he suspects that once in Sweden he will be extradited again to the United States, where he is the subject of an espionage investigation stemming from the thousands of secret government documents published by WikiLeaks.

Julian Assange
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

"International law is quite clear that detention is not voluntary where one's only two choices are confinement or a risk of persecution," wrote Carey Shenkman, a human rights lawyer who represents Assange in the United States.

"In other words, Mr. Assange's stay in the embassy is coerced and cannot be said to be self-imposed . . . Assange faces a serious risk of onward extradition to the United States, where he faces persecution and inhumane treatment." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IRAQ

Syrian families struggle for food

Perwin Shamsaddeen Ali, a Syrian refugee living in a tent camp in northern Iraq, has been reduced to cooking one meal a day for her family of four.

"I cook at 11 o'clock and we eat the leftovers in the evening. Why? Because we have no more food, that's why," the 28-year-old mother of two said. "Today I gave the kids some noodles, that's all. That's all we had."

As aid agencies struggle to keep pace with the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War, they have been forced to cut back on assistance, including food rations.

Donors will be asked to provide nearly $9 billion US to aid agencies and host countries in 2016 at an annual conference held Thursday in London — a record request. But donors have come up short in previous years.

A funding shortfall last year forced the World Food Program, the UN agency responsible for feeding the refugees, to cut back. Some refugees no longer receive any food aid. Monthly cash assistance has been reduced to $10 per person.

Some refugees say the vouchers the WFP uses to provide aid exacerbates the problem, since it can only be used in the camp's supermarket, where goods are more expensive than outside.

The WFP says its Iraq operation was 61 per cent underfunded last year. In 2015, it gave food assistance to 1.8 million displaced Iraqis across the country, plus 60,000 refugees from neighbouring Syria.

The food shortages have convinced some inside the camp that they would be better off heading to Europe, despite the dangers of crossing the choppy seas in smuggler boats.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLOBAL PLEDGE

World leaders pledged more than $10 billion Thursday to fund schools, shelter and jobs for Syrian refugees, money that British Prime Minister David Cameron said "will save lives, will give people the chance of a future." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO

Police find six dead in home

Chicago police on Thursday found the bodies of four men, one woman and a child inside a home on the city's South Side in what they say could be a murder-suicide, even as they added extra patrols in the neighbourhood.

Standing in the street in the well-tended Gage Park neighbourhood, interim police Superintendent John Escalante told reporters that police checked the house Thursday afternoon after receiving a call from a co-worker worried about someone who lived there. The person had missed two days of work, which was "highly unusual and very suspicious," Escalante said.

The bodies had signs of trauma, but authorities have not determined the cause of death.

Authorities were still working to identify the dead. Escalante said it's probable they were all family members. The child is thought to be 10 to 12 years old. Police are trying to locate other relatives, Escalante said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Tax bracket holds the key

SAVINGS

RRSPs offer no advantage for low earners, experts say

Investment advisers say deciding whether to put savings in their RRSP or TFSA accounts depends on what people are saving for and where they fall within tax brackets.

Gains on money in a TFSA are tax-free. ISTOCK

"RRSPs tend to be beneficial in your peak earning years, especially if you believe at retirement your income will come down so that you'll be in a lower tax bracket," says Angela Dzinas of Alterna Savings in Ottawa.

When people put money into an RRSP account they are able to deduct their contributions from their income. When retirees start withdrawing their nest egg, the money is taxed as income. In contrast, when money is put into a TFSA, there's no deduction on an income tax return. But when the money is withdrawn, any investment gains that may have been earned are tax-free.

For those in the lowest tax bracket, contributing to an RRSP may offer little advantage over a TFSA.

In addition to the tax bracket, what investors are saving for is important. RRSPS are designed to help save for retirement. Money can be withdrawn to help buy a home for the first time or pay for education later in life — but they are primarily to help in retirement. But TFSAs can be used for just about anything and when money is withdrawn, there's no tax to pay. They can be used to save for retirement, but also serve as an emergency fund.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEARING SHKRELI ANGERS LAWMAKERS A smirking Martin Shkreli, seen above at a Capitol Hill hearing on Thursday, infuriated members of U.S. Congress by taking the Fifth when asked about his jacking up of drug prices, then promptly going on Twitter to insult his questioners as "imbeciles." The brash, 32-year-old entrepreneur — vilified as the new face of pharmaceutical-industry greed — was summoned by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which is investigating soaring prices for critical medicines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Companies testing possible diabetes cure
Johnson & Johnson and biotech company ViaCyte have begun testing the first stem cell treatment in Type 1 diabetic patients that could end the need for frequent insulin injections.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another airbag problem
Continental Automotive Systems says moisture can get inside its airbag control computers, causing the power supplies to corrode and fail. This issue will lead to recalls of up to 5 million vehicles worldwide.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EMMA TEITEL ON A POISONOUS PICKUP ARTIST

Roosh V's misogynistic ideology borrows more from the Middle Ages than Tucker Max; a man who says he won't even speak to female reporters because he doesn't respect their work.

A few years ago, while covering the burgeoning men's rights movement, I attended a lecture at the University of Toronto by Janice Fiamengo, a Canadian academic and self-avowed "anti-feminist" who believes women's studies programs erode free speech.

The event was attended, not surprisingly, by men's rights activists who were spellbound by Fiamengo's gospel of unrepentant political incorrectness. But most noticeably, they seemed spellbound by Fiamengo herself.

Here was a real live woman who didn't ridicule them or write them off as quacks; a real live woman who (to borrow a line from Bridget Jones's Diary) appeared to love them "just as they were."

Yes, it's likely that a lot of these guys were sexist or paranoid; socially awkward, serially jilted, libertarians or disgruntled divorced dads peeved at what they believed was a rigged family court system. But I got the distinct impression that they would happily eject their creepy worldview if a woman actually gave them the time of day. In other words, their loneliness was way more palpable than their anger.

They weren't monsters, they were just jerks.

This is not the impression I get from Roosh V, a.k.a. Daryush Valizadeh, the "neo-masculinist" American pickup artist, whose misogynistic ideology borrows more from the Middle Ages than Tucker Max; a man who says he won't even speak to female reporters because he doesn't respect their work. (Needless to say, he did not respond to my request for comment.)

Valizadeh, 36, runs Return of Kings (ROK), a website that churns out editorials advocating the repeal of women's suffrage, increased dating of women with eating disorders, and most notoriously, (in a column from last year called "How to Stop Rape") the legalization of rape, which he argues would prompt women to take greater measures to protect their bodies from unwanted advances. Surreally, Roosh says media have mischaracterized him: He is actually the anti-feminist Jonathan Swift, and "How to Stop Rape," is actually "satire."

This last claim is so absurd it seems absurd to go crazy about it. Even if it were true, is the average male visitor to Roosh's website a guy who's likely to be attuned to satire? Or is he a guy who's likely to believe that professional wrestling is real?

Why this interest in the pickup artist formerly known as Daryush? Because this past week Roosh set off a firestorm of protest when he announced that this weekend he would be hosting an "international meetup" for his followers, in bars and cafes around the world. But widespread and very vocal condemnation of Return of Kings — and "How to Stop Rape" in particular — by activists and politicians, including several Canadian mayors, apparently spooked him. Valizadeh cancelled the event, citing, what else, safety concerns.

The question now is: should everyone have made such a fuss? Were the planned protests and protestations of high dudgeon really necessary? Or should we have concluded, as columnist Charlotte Lytton did in the U.K.'s the Daily Telegraph this week, that Valizadeh's ideas are "so absurd, so pointless and idiotic, that taking them as a joke often seems like the only appropriate response."

STONE AGE AND SCARY The coolest response to the vitriol of Roosh V (Daryush Valizadeh) may be to ignore him, Emma Teitel writes, but the self-styled "neo-masculinist" blogger is worse than the typical troll.
BARTEK KUCHARCZYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Misogyny, the hatred of women, is a word that gets used with an alarming lack of selectivity to describe a gamut of chauvinist-piggishness.

The answer is no. It may always be cooler to sit back and laugh, but even if Valizadeh is the satirist he claims to be and the entire ROK website is a trolling project of Sacha Baron Cohen proportion, we should be proud and not embarrassed that our leaders reacted so swiftly to condemn what is a poisonous ideology.

Misogyny, the hatred of women, is a word that gets thrown around a lot these days. It's used with a sometimes alarming lack of selectivity to describe a gamut of chauvinist-piggishness: from the music videos of Robin Thicke, to groping on Mad Men, to men sitting wide-legged on the subway. It has replaced sexism as the go-to term for discrimination against women.

Overuse and misuse of the term has muddied its meaning. But Roosh V is the real thing. He and his followers (who, by the way, have compiled a list on their website of female journalists whose work they find offensive, on which I assume I will soon appear), are not just harmless sad sacks, like the Men's Rights activists who came to hear Fiamengo speak at U of T. They're not just lonely and pathetic. These guys are Stone Age and scary. They're misogynists. So is their fearless leader. And they should all be dealt with as such.

Emma Teitel is a national columnist for the Toronto Star. She has been a front-of-the-book columnist for Maclean's magazine for the past four years, focusing on a wide range of subjects including women's issues and popular culture. She won the National Magazine Awards gold award for columns in 2013.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

High Hollywood drama, and clichés, on Ghomeshi Day 3

Soap operas have cliffhangers. Apparently, so do sexual-assault trials. Yesterday, the Jian Ghomeshi trial saw testimony from former Trailer Park Boys actor Lucy DeCoutere. It was, as DeCoutere put it, "theatre at its best."

Never more so than when Ghomeshi's lawyer, Marie Henein, drew the entire court to the brink of what she implied would be a major revelation, and then abruptly cut her questioning for the day.

She had pressed DeCoutere, who alleges one count of sexual assault and one of choking, about why she disclosed new emails on Tuesday evening, hours after the trial's first witness saw surprise email evidence in cross-examination.

"I'm going to suggest that after 16 months and 19 interviews in the media, and four press releases, and press releases by your lawyer on the eve of this trial, the very first time that this call gets made is when you know defence might have some of those emails," Henein charged.

DeCoutere said it only became clear Tuesday the information would be "critical."

With gravitas Henein asked one final time: "Do you want to tell his Honour the real conversation that was going on?"

"I'm not sure what you mean," DeCoutere said.

Henein then told the judge she'd like to end here — leaving the gallery agape, and DeCoutere in limbo.

Before facing Henein, DeCoutere commanded her own drama as she described how she "normalized" her relationship with Ghomeshi after she says he choked her and slapped her three times in Toronto in 2003.

It was a feminine cliché that stirred the emotions of women observers, who saw themselves in her: keen to please and to question themselves, afraid to offend.

DeCoutere said she didn't know how to react because she'd "never had an adult hit me before." She decided to stay at Ghomeshi's so that "whatever it was that inspired him to hit me would fade out." She kissed Ghomeshi on the couch, and then spent the weekend seeing him socially. She even sent flowers when she got home to Halifax.

Calling her own behaviour "outrageous" and "ludicrous," she said it was nonetheless authentic. She wanted to get over what happened; she wanted to "kill it," even after, at the Gemini awards, Ghomeshi allegedly cupped his hand around her throat "to remind me he choked me."

Any woman could sympathize with this desire to placate, this urge to self-blame. And it will carry its own power, despite Henein's dramatic twist. Today, we'll find out if that cliffhanger was earned.

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metro WEEKEND
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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

George Clooney stars in the latest offering from the Coen Brothers — Hail, Caesar! — which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

O Brothers, we love thou

ANALYSIS

The cream of the canon of Ethan and Joel

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

The Coen Brothers have spent most of their careers as critical darlings, favourites of people like me who love the offbeat sensibility they bring to their films.

Their classic work, which includes O Brother Where Art Thou, Barton Fink and of course, the Oscar-winning Fargo, dates back to the early '80s with their breathtaking debut Blood Simple.

The Coens made their name mixing off-the-wall comedy with crime stories. Raising Arizona redefined quirky and The Big Lebowski is a cult classic.

The sibling directors set their new film Hail, Caesar! in a fictional movie studio called Capitol Pictures but populated the story with characters ripped from Hollywood history.

Josh Brolin plays Eddie Mannix, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's legendary producer and "fixer." During Tinseltown's Golden Age, Mannix solved star's problems, allegedly using his influence to keep some of the most notorious crimes and scandals on the LAPD blotter under wraps.

The Coens don't hit a home run every time — their romantic comedy Intolerable Cruelty lacked both romance and comedy and The Ladykillers was an ill-advised remake of an Ealing Studios classic — but their genre-jumping resume contains many marvellous films that are as varied as they are entertaining.

Here are three of their movies that translate easily from the arthouse to your house.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Hail, Caesar!	★★★
Pride and Prejudice and Zombies	★★★
The Choice	★
The Lady in The Van	★★★
Mojave	★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

No Country for Old Men
The Coens faithfully adapted Cormac McCarthy's novel, keeping the dark humour, unbearable suspense and high body count, while at the same time tightening up their notoriously loose narrative style.

This is muscular filmmaking, highly structured but not predictable; it's well paced and suspenseful. It's one of their best films.

A Serious Man
Though billed as a comedy, this may be the bleakest film from the Coen Brothers — and these are the same guys who stuffed someone into a wood chipper in Fargo.

The story of a man who thought he did everything right, only to be jabbed in the eye by the fickle finger of fate is a tragic comedy that shows how ruthless real life can be.

Set in 1967 Minnesota A Serious Man is apparently a thinly veiled look at the early life of the Coens, and if this is true, they deserve the designation of tortured artists.

This film is darkly brilliant and funny, but a celebration of life it ain't.

Inside Llewyn Davis
This one is a fictional look at the vibrant '60s Greenwich Village folk scene. Imagine the cover of The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan come to life and you'll get the idea.

More a character study than a traditional narrative, Oscar-nominated Inside Llewyn Davis lives up to its name by painting a vivid portrait of its main character, played by Star Wars' star Oscar Isaac.

It gives us an under-the-covers look at the struggles and naked ambition it takes to get noticed.

Once you get inside Llewyn's head you probably won't want to hang out with the guy in real life, but you won't regret spending two cinematic hours with him.

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Nicholas makes Sparks fly

Benjamin Walker and Teresa Palmer star in a feature film adaptation of the Nicholas Sparks' love story, The Choice. CONTRIBUTED

THE CHOICE

Novelist inspired by a heart OK with being single

Steve Gow
For Metro

Nicholas Sparks has quite literally mastered the art of the love story.

Not only have the American romance novelist's books sold over 100 million copies globally, but 11 of them have been turned into successful Hollywood hits — including the classic drama The Notebook and last year's The Longest Ride. With the release of his latest passion project The Choice now hitting theatres, we quizzed the wordsmith on his command of the courtship.

The obstacles of romance

Having penned nearly 20 hit novels, Sparks insists the key to a good love story lies in laying down a few roadblocks. In The Choice, veterinarian Travis is convinced a serious affair with neighbor Gabby would only cramp his bachelor lifestyle.

"Conflict is key to any story," insists Sparks. "Something's got to hold the characters apart so that they can overcome that. That's part and parcel with any love story. I certainly didn't (create) this — Shakespeare did it, the Greeks did it."

Write what you know

The author insists that his ideas start close to home; that his "inspiration always starts very small." In the case of The Choice, Travis is even loosely based on Sparks's own brother.

"My brother was a great bachelor for many years," admits Sparks. "It's just someone very comfortable being single and comfortable doing what he likes to do (and I thought) what kind of person would it take to win a heart like that."

The gift of trust

When Nicholas Sparks hands over one of his hit novels to a Hollywood screenwriter, he's happy to relinquish some creative control. But the author does lay some ground rules.

"They're very simple — retain the spirit and the intent of the characters. For instance, lets not make a character a pot-smoking alcoholic just because you think it would be more interesting," said Sparks. "I understand that they're very different mediums — a novel is a story told with words and a film is a story told with pictures — so I don't worry about small changes."

TRUE STORY

Fahmy memoir to be turned into film

The publisher of Mohamed Fahmy's upcoming memoir says a British company will develop the book as a feature film.

Penguin Random House Canada says Fahmy's memoir The Marriott Cell will tell the story of how he and two colleagues of Al Jazeera English were imprisoned in Egypt, and their battle for freedom.

The book is described as a political thriller that covers the arrest, trial and incarceration of bureau chief Fahmy, Australian correspondent Peter Greste and Egyptian producer Baher Mohamed in 2013.

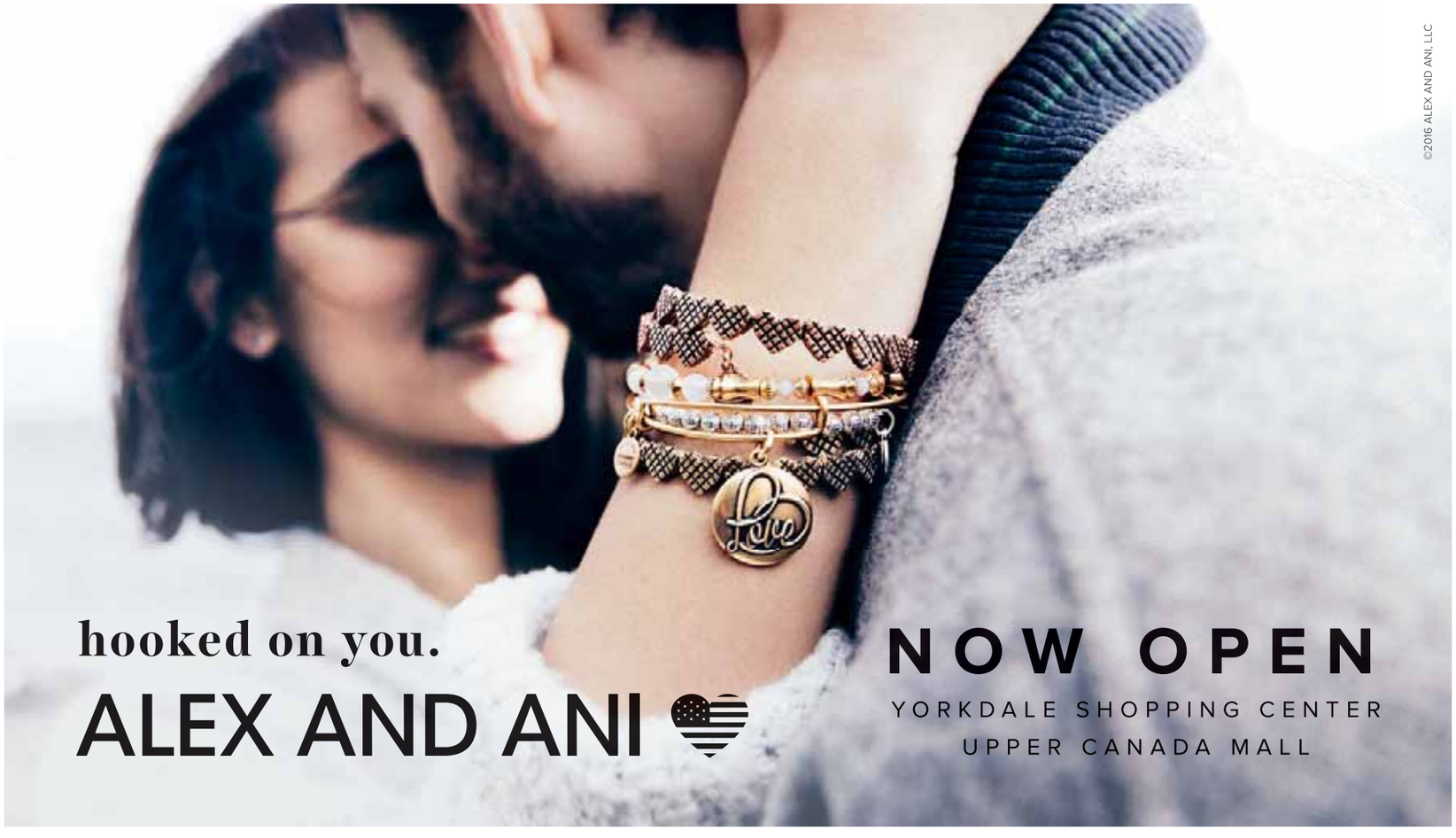
Fahmy and Baher Mohamed were pardoned last September. Greste had previously been deported.

Fahmy's memoir is to be published in October and the publisher says The Development Partnership will turn it into a film.

"A feature is going to allow us to relive and dramatically portray what no news reel grasped; one's inner voice caught in an emotional struggle between lawlessness, failed corporate decisions, and bureaucratic red tape that left us in a vicious Kafkaesque black hole fighting for our lives and that bigger cause of press freedom," said Fahmy in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mohamed Fahmy and his wife, Marwa Omara. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



First comes love, then comes marriage, then comes the feature film adaptation

CANCON

Husband and wife team star in their real life rom-com

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

Adam K. Scott and Jeannette Sousa wrote and star in A Date With Miss Fortune, a movie based on their romance. CONTRIBUTED

> **We just started collecting stories and eventualy we just pieced it all together and it evolved itself into a script.**
> Adam K. Scott, filmmaker

If it's a challenge just trying to agree what to make for dinner with your significant other, imagine writing and starring in a movie together.

For the past four years, that's what actors Adam K. Scott and Jeannette Sousa have been doing — penning and portraying fictional versions of themselves in the new rom-com A Date With Miss Fortune — a story about a struggling screenwriter serenading his overly suspicious sweetheart and protective Portuguese family.

"We just started collecting stories and eventually we just pieced it all together and it evolved itself into a script," recalled Scott of the decision to write the movie with his wife.

"Being in a cross-cultural relationship, it allowed for more comical situations at times and we figured it was something that most people would relate to," said Sousa. "That was always the goal — to make a film that would appeal to all nationalities, all cultures and really, people of all ages."

To that end, the Toronto-based talents have been largely successful. Already a theatrical hit in Portugal, Miss Fortune has been drawing obvious comparisons to the 2002 rom-com classic My Big Fat Greek Wedding.

Sure enough, a mingling of cultural idiosyncrasies may sound familiar to that cinematic blockbuster, but "because it's the highest-grossing comedy of all-time," Sousa concedes they kind of embrace the comparison. "We appreciate when people bring it up, we appreciate the compliment," said Sousa. "But we try to have people understand that it is a different story; that it parallels with the cross cultural aspect."

Loosely based on the real-life couple's own relationship, the pursuit of plotting a motion picture is a difficult enough task, let alone when it comes to agreeing on what embarrassing anecdotes to include — or not include.

"Sometimes there was a coin toss to be honest," said Sousa. "And then we also kept score so if my one line got in, he'd get the next one."

"I like to push the bounds probably more than Jeanette so she would say 'lets keep this a private matter' or for a sequel," laughed Scott. "She would say, if we get a sequel, I could spill the beans."

OPÉRA DE PARIS

Black Swan choreographer quits Paris' premier ballet company

Dancer Benjamin Millepied, who choreographed for the 2010 movie Black Swan and is married to its star, Natalie Portman, announced Thursday he's stepping down as dance director at Paris' premier ballet company.

Millepied's efforts to innovate at the storied Opéra de Paris have met mixed reactions since his arrival 15 months ago, and French media have reported tensions between him and some of the company's star dancers.

He said in a statement that he's leaving for "personal reasons," and that his role didn't allow him enough time for "creation and artistic expression."

Millepied, who has also danced for New York City Ballet and directed films and music videos, said he would continue to work with the company during this season and the next, and potentially in the years to come.

In addition to his choreography, the 38-year-old Frenchman also performed in Black Swan, the disturbing story of a young woman's struggle with the psychological pressure of ballet stardom.

He sought to leave the Opéra de Paris on friendly terms, appearing Thursday at a news conference with his successor, star dancer Aurelie Dupont, and Opéra de Paris director Stephane Lissner.

"What's important for me is to create, to be inspired by the parts. That's what motivated me in the ballet and today this position (the dance director position) isn't for me, it doesn't suit me," Millepied told a news conference.

Speculation about a possible departure surfaced after a recent documentary in which Millepied said he still wasn't satisfied with the level of dance.

In an interview with Le Figaro in December, he said dancers should have more of a sense of entrepreneurship and fundraising — a concept foreign to many in France's more traditionally funded cultural world.

His predecessor, Brigitte Lefevre, played down any resistance to his unconventional ideas, saying instead that Millepied didn't have the necessary management experience for the job. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Benjamin Millepied, seen here directing a dress rehearsal last year, has departed the Opéra de Paris after reports of tensions between him and star dancers. STEPHANE DE SAKUTIN/AFP/GETTY

A primer on Navajo Nation vs. Urban Outfitters

LAWSUIT

What you need to know about the suit, likely worth millions

The Navajo Nation is seeking potentially millions of dollars from Urban Outfitters Inc. over clothing, jewelry and other merchandise bearing the tribe's name that the retailer has sold.

The clothing chain asked a federal judge in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Wednesday to limit how far back in time the tribe can go to seek money over the company's products, which included everything from necklaces, jackets and pants to a flask and underwear with the "Navajo" name.

The judge did not issue an immediate ruling.

The tribe's lawsuit alleging trademark violations has been working its way through the courts for more than three years.

Efforts to settle the case featuring two unlikely foes have failed as the tribe seeks vast sums of money from the company that also owns the Anthropologie and Free People brands.

Here are things to know about the case:

What is the Navajo Nation seeking?

The Navajo Nation wants revenue from products sold by Urban Outfitters and its subsidiaries under the "Navajo" name dating back to 2008. The actual amount isn't quantified in court documents, but it could amount to millions of dollars.

On some claims, the tribe wants all the profits generated from the Navajo-themed sales. On others, it wants $1,000 per day per item, or three times the profit generated by marketing and retail of products using the name.

Urban Outfitters says the tribe deserves nothing from 2008 to when the lawsuit was filed, arguing that the company has been burdened by the tribe's unreasonable delay in asserting its alleged rights.

What is the basis of the lawsuit?

The tribe's 2012 lawsuit alleges violations of federal and state trademark laws, including the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, which makes it illegal to sell arts or crafts in a way to falsely suggest they're made by American Indians.

Urban Outfitters says "Navajo" is a generic term for a style or design. The company wants a judge to determine it hasn't infringed upon the tribe's rights and to cancel the tribe's federal trademark registrations.

What is the merchandise in question?

The geometric prints popular in clothing often are inspired by Native American designs. Urban Outfitters said it started using the "Navajo" or "Navaho" name on its products and in marketing as early as July 2001, when the fashion trend was in full swing.

Its subsidiaries followed suit, with the companies selling cuffs, necklaces, jackets, pants, a flask and panties, among other merchandise.

The companies said they quit selling the products after hearing of the tribe's lawsuit.

The Navajo Nation holds trademarks on the "Navajo" name for things like clothing, footwear and online retail sales.

Navajo policing of trademarks

The lawsuit against Urban Outfitters is the first such action taken by the tribe in U.S. federal court to assert its trademarks. Former Navajo Nation Attorney General Harrison Tsosie has said the tribe twice protested the unauthorized use of "Navajo" before it sued and sent at least four dozen protest letters afterward.

The tribe relies on its members and an agreement with a Texas-based company that licenses the "Navajo" name to monitor use of the term and alert the tribal government to possible trademark infringement.

What is the Navajo Nation?

The Navajo Nation refers both to the tribal government and to the nearly 70,000 square kilometres that make up the tribe's reservation in Arizona, Utah and New Mexico — the country's largest.

About 180,000 of the 300,000 Navajo tribal members live on the reservation. The tribe's population is second only to the Cherokee Nation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Items purchased from Urban Outfitters' Navajo line are shown in a 2011 file photo. MATT YORK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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BRADFORD, PA.

Resort lodge balances class and comfort

Loren Christie
For Metro Canada

The rustic luxury of Glendorn

The Lodge at Glendorn is the perfect combination of cozy and kitschy, and grand. MAIN PHOTO COURTESY THE LODGE AT GLENDORN; STATUE PHOTO LOREN CHRISTIE/FOR METRO

Pittsburgh native Sally Ann Bensur summed it up,

"If you want to wear your snow boots to an elegant dinner then the Glendorn is for you."

Chatting over a beer at the resort's traditional Saturday night Skipper Lake bonfire, this unabashed fan of The Lodge at Glendorn was keen to let me know that this is a special spot.

A three-and-a-half hour drive from Toronto, this year-round 1,600 acre resort in Bradford, Pa., has been the epitome of rustic luxury since it opened its doors to the public in 1995.

Set in a valley below the Allegheny Plateau, the property was originally purchased in the early 1900s by wealthy oil magnate C.G. Dorn and his son Forest as a hunting and fishing camp. The original family dwelling, known as the Big House, offers four guest room suites, a cocktail lounge and a grand dining room anchored by a massive stone fireplace.

Throughout the century there were 12 stand alone cabins built to accommodate the growing Dorn family. Today they are part of the guests' accommodations.

As I walked in to John's Cabin it became apparent that these charming cabins were real vacation homes; each one a time capsule of 20th century Americana, capturing decades of Dorn family history.

John's kitchen looks as if it was lifted off the set of Mad Men's first season — complete with a 1950s oven, a plaid patterned Formica countertop and a bevy of bar tools and swizzle sticks worthy of Don Draper.

The bathrooms are pure 1970s with vanities, tubs and toilets in shades of pale green, mustard yellow and aquamarine, all in pristine condition.

The shelves and walls are full of art, books and board games from the 1980s. Remember Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz?

Whimsical art can be found throughout the property.

"The shelves and walls are full of art, books and board games from the 1980s. Remember Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz?

As part of the Relais & Chateaux collection the resort focuses heavily on the culinary experience.

Guests are invited to enjoy a cocktail in the lounge prior to being seated for dinner.

Although menus are set, Executive Chef Joe Schafer changes the choices every day. The meals I had were incredible; melt in your mouth beef and a peanut butter and jelly inspired dessert with blackberry mousse and candied peanuts were favourites.

Activities include snowmobiling, cross country skiing and curling. Other seasons bring other outdoor options including biking, hiking and fly-fishing.

Sally Ann came last Spring for a fish camp and returned again this past New Year's Eve.

She figured this visit was her twelfth. I have some catching up to do.

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TRAVEL NOTES FRIDA, MYRTLE AND CAIUS

Frida Kahlo arrives in Russia

Russia's first major exhibition dedicated to Mexican surrealist painter Frida Kahlo has opened in a St. Petersburg museum.
The exhibition that opened Tuesday in the Faberge Museum features three dozen works by Kahlo, famous for her poignant self-portraits. Organizers said the exhibit spans Kahlo's career and includes some of her most iconic paintings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Visitor at a Frida Kahlo exhibit in St. Petersburg. DMITRY LOVETSKY /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Myrtle Beach announces 'Dollar for Dollar' deals for Canadians

"Canadian at par." Now there's a term we want to hear as our loonie sinks. Myrtle Beach, S.C., feels our pain so it has just launched a tempting "Dollar for Dollar Deals" promotion that runs through April 30. Canadians can get hotel, dining, entertainment, golf and attraction deals up to 30 per cent off (with a few deals going as far as 65 per cent off). You must show ID to snag the deals.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

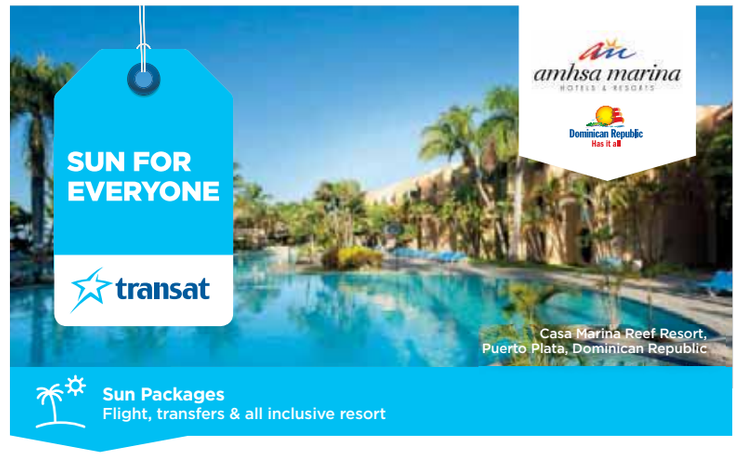
Myrtle Beach is courting Canadians. VISITMYRTLEBEACH.COM

Roman pyramid gets a makeover

Rome's only surviving pyramid from ancient times is getting fresh visibility. After a Japanese clothing magnate paid for a cleanup, archaeologists are eager to show off the monument, constructed around 2,000 years ago as the burial tomb for a Roman praetor, or magistrate, named Caius Cestius. Decades of grime blackened the creamy white Carrara marble exterior of the monument near a traffic-clogged intersection near a subway stop.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cat outside the cleaned-up Roman pyramid. DOMENICO STINELLIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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The best stargazing spots in Banff

Is there a better place in the world to see the stars than Canada's first national park, in Alberta? Far from the light pollution of major cities, Banff National Park is a stargazer's paradise. There are few things more powerful than the peace of the Canadian Rockies with a plethora of starlight overhead. In the wintertime, visitors might even catch sight of the northern lights.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE; ALL PHOTOS BRANDON VAN SON

1 **Castle Mountain** — One of the most iconic mountains in Banff National Park is Castle Mountain. You'll find its imposing peaks down the highway between Banff and Lake Louise. Here, views of the stars and milky way will greet stargazers on a clear night.

2 **Lake Minnewanka** — Lake Minnewanka, which is Nakoda for the "Lake of the Water Spirits," is the largest lake in Banff National Park and a beautiful place to be night or day. The lake also seems to be more protected from the clouds by the mountains than other locations.

3 **Morant's Curve** — This is one of the most famous views of Banff National Park. It was here CP Rail had photographs taken for its tourist brochures. With views of some of the most impressive mountain peaks in Alberta, and the Bow River flowing alongside the rail tracks, this is a great place to stargaze or to spot trains.

4 **The Vermilion Lakes** — Travellers don't have to wander far from Banff to see the stars. Just a 30-40 minute walk or a short drive west lie the Vermilion Lakes. These hot spring-fed lakes are encircled by hiking trails.

5 **Lake Louise** — Since the area is completely open to the public, everyone can enjoy the view. One of the best times for stargazing at Lake Louise is in the winter, when the lake is frozen over and the night skies are at their darkest.

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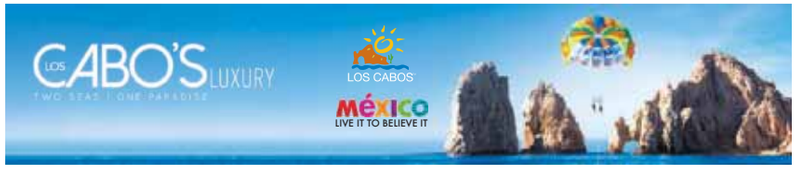

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SPORTS

Coldplay lead singer Chris Martin says the band will try to honour Super Bowl halftime shows of the past, present and future on Sunday

APE GOES BANANAS FOR PANTHERS
An ape at the Salt Lake City zoo has predicted the Carolina Panthers will win the Super Bowl. The one-year-old orangutan named Tuah chewed up a cardboard Panthers sign and later kissed a papier-mache Panthers helmet. Tuah's dad picked seven straight winners before dying in 2015.
RAVELL CALL/THE DESERET NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Panthers abide by mantra on, off field

"Keep pounding."

The words have become synonymous with the NFC champion Carolina Panthers.

They're on the walls of the stadium's weight room, on the tunnel leading to the field and even stitched into the collar of every Panthers jersey.

"It's a way of life around here," said Panthers assistant defensive line coach Sam Mills III.

Mills' father Sam, a Panthers linebacker from 1995-97 and then an assistant coach, uttered the phrase "keep pounding" at a downtown Charlotte hotel on Jan. 2, 2004, the night before the Panthers started a run to their first Super Bowl. It has been become the team's rallying call.

Mills, the team's linebacker coach at the time, was dying of intestinal cancer when he gathered players together in a meeting room before they would beat the Dallas Cowboys in a wild-card playoff game.

There, Mills delivered an emotional message akin to Jim Valvano's "Don't Give Up" speech, say those in attendance. There were no microphones on hand to record the words, no TV cameras to capture the moment. But the message was clear: No matter how hard things get, no matter how bleak things look — keep pounding. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1959-2005

Sam Mills died on April 18, 2005, at 45.

IN BRIEF

Manziel's ex-girlfriend tells police he struck her

Johnny Manziel's ex-girlfriend told police the Cleveland Browns quarterback hit her during an argument last weekend in Texas and said he appeared to be on drugs.

Fort Worth police released a report Thursday that provided the first details of the altercation Saturday between Manziel and Colleen Crowley. Manziel is being investigated for a possible assault on Crowley.

She told police he was "aggressive" toward her after they were out with friends at the Zaza Hotel in Dallas. She said he struck her, including once in the left ear, before they drove back to her Fort Worth apartment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johnny Manziel
GETTY IMAGES

Cam, Peyton clash on grandest stage

SUPER BOWL 50

Carolina stands in way of Manning's perfect ending

It's the perfect scenario, a Hollywood-type script: Peyton Manning emulates John Elway and rides off into the sunset with the Lombardi Trophy in his grip.

Will it really happen?

For Manning to take the Denver Broncos to their first NFL title since the team's current general manager, Elway, did in 1999 before retiring, seems the sentimental choice across the nation.

Like Elway, Manning has had a taste of losing in the big game, going 1-2, including a lopsided loss to Seattle two years ago. Elway dropped his first three Super Bowls, then won his final two.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity," the 39-year-old Manning said. "I keep probably repeating myself but I'm honoured to be a part of it, and the other three that I played in, I was honoured to be a part of those as well."

Should this be Manning's final game, he will leave as the most accomplished regular-season quarterback, owning five league MVP awards. He's had a difficult past few seasons, sidelined for 2011 entirely because of neck surgeries, then struggling in last year's playoffs and missing six games in 2015 with a foot injury.

But he also earned that fifth MVP in 2013 before falling to Seattle.

Standing in the Broncos' way, though, is simply the best team in football.

This is the third straight season the top seeds have won conference titles. The Panthers are 17-1, have the league's most prolific offence behind All-Pro quarterback Cam Newton, and a big-play defence. That D might not match the stats of the Broncos (14-4), who ranked first overall, but it's just as impactful.

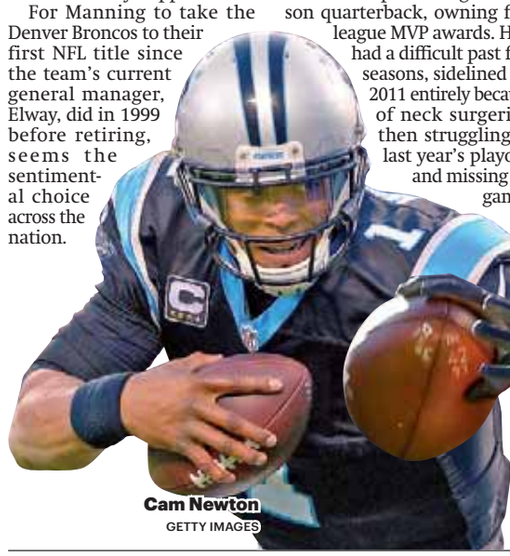
"I sound like a broken record, but yet for a dream to play out as it has through the ups and downs, it just means the world for us to get what you prepare for," says Newton, finishing off his fifth and, by far, best pro season.

"For us, the ultimate goal for this sport is to win a Super Bowl. You win national championships in college and … you try to get drafted to a team that's going to put you in the right position to win a Super Bowl."

That's where the Panthers have arrived. Carolina is a 5-1/2-point favourite to become only the third team to go 18-1 and win the Super Bowl. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PREDICTION

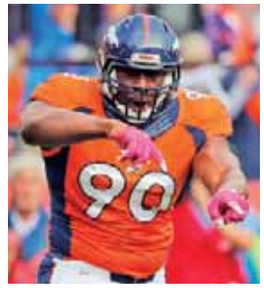
The Associated Press predicts the Panthers will win 27-20, leaving Manning to ponder if he wants to leave football after losing his final game.



Cam Newton
GETTY IMAGES

Peyton Manning
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bronco prepares to play with heavy heart



Antonio Smith is in his 12th year in the NFL, first with the Broncos. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At first, Antonio Smith thought about running out of the team hotel and catching the first flight home after his mother awakened him with news of his father's death following heart surgery.

"But I know I got a greater purpose and a greater responsibility here on this stage," Smith said Thursday, a day after that phone call shattered the joy of Super Bowl week for him.

Denver's defensive end will play Sunday when the Broncos take on the Carolina Panthers. It's not so much to honour Marty Christopher Williams, 58, but to salute the way his father lived his life even after being sentenced to life in prison.

"Guys love him and this is just something else to add motivation for this team.
Chris Harris Jr. on teammate Antonio Smith

Williams had been incarcerated in Oklahoma since 1991 for a murder his family contends he didn't commit.

"I would definitely say he was one of my biggest fans and he would have loved for me to play as best as I could for the glory of the Lord in the same way he lived his life," Smith said. "So, I would say more of that."

Smith, 34, is a 12-year NFL veteran who joined the Broncos this season. He posted 2-1/2 sacks in the regular season and another in the playoffs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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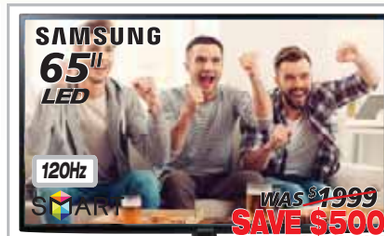

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5 GREATS WHO FELL SHORT OF SUPER

Some of the NFL's biggest stars have a gaping hole on their resumés. Bad timing for some. Bad teams for others. And many missed opportunities. Here's a look at some of the greats who retired without playing in a Super Bowl:

1 Dan Fouts

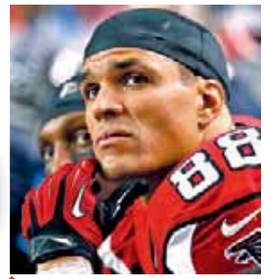
Fouts set the league's single-season mark for yards passing in three straight seasons (1979-81) and finished with 43,040 over his 15-year career, all with the Chargers. He thrived in Don Coryell's pass-happy offence, but Fouts couldn't get San Diego to the Super Bowl.

2 Eric Dickerson

One of the most dominant and dynamic running backs of all time is seventh in career rushing and still holds the single-season NFL mark with 2,105 yards in 1984. The closest Dickerson got was to the NFC title game in which the L.A. Rams were shut out by Chicago 24-0.

3 Barry Sanders

The third-leading rusher in NFL history walked away from the game after 10 seasons of juking defenders and 15,269 yards rushing — just 1,457 short of then-No. 1 Walter Payton — at 30 years old. He spent his entire career with Detroit and, just like any other player who has worn only a Lions jersey, never made it to the Super Bowl. Sanders came tantalizingly close in the 1991 season, his third in the league, when Detroit lost to Washington in the NFC championship game. Current Lions receiver Calvin Johnson is reportedly considering retirement — he's 30, like Sanders was — and could soon join this list.



4 Tony Gonzalez

Gonzalez holds the records at tight end for catches (1,325), yards receiving (15,127) and TD receptions (111). The six-time All-Pro's best chance came in his second-to-last season, when Atlanta fell to San Francisco in the NFC title game.

5 Warren Moon

Moon won five straight Grey Cups in Edmonton but that success didn't translate south of the border. Moon is the No. 7 passer in NFL history with 49,325 yards — but he never got close to a Super Bowl. He was 3-7 in the playoffs, failing to get past the divisional round. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

NHL LEAFS HONOUR SITTLER'S PERFECT 10, 40 YEARS LATER

The Toronto Maple Leafs honoured Hall of Famer Darryl Sittler on Thursday night, marking the 40th anniversary of his historic 10-point night. Sharing the bounty, the Maple Leafs had Dave Reece — who was in the Boston goal that night — on hand for the ceremony before Toronto took on the New Jersey Devils. Go to metronews.ca for more Leafs coverage, including results from the game. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLB

Bautista hoping to stay with Blue Jays

Toronto slugger Jose Bautista would like to be a Blue Jay for life. It appears to be up to the team's new front office to make the next move.

Bautista, who is entering the final year of his contract, is coming off one of his best seasons and helped the Blue Jays end their long playoff drought last year. He made it clear in a phone interview Thursday that he would like to finish his career with Toronto.

"It would be an honour if I had the opportunity to do so," Bautista told The Canadian Press from Tampa, Fla.

Now the question is when — or if — general manager Ross Atkins and/or team president Mark Shapiro will be willing to spend the big dollars needed to get him signed to another multi-year extension.

"I have to have something to consider at some point if I'm going to make that decision, which hasn't happened yet," Bautista said. "So I'm going to continue to go about my business just like any other year and any other day because I don't really have a decision to make right now."

Jose Bautista GETTY IMAGES

Bautista, who has been a top power hitter for several years, posted big numbers again last season with 40 homers and 114 RBIs. Teammate Edwin Encarnacion, who hit 39 homers and had 111 RBIs, is also entering the final year of his deal and their long-term status will be a key talking point with spring training set to begin this month.

Bautista said he recently had a positive meeting with Atkins and Shapiro at his Florida home. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SUNDAY

WHAT'S UP FOR THE WEEKND

With his star still ascending, we catch up with the friends and family who know how it all started for The Weeknd. Sunday in Toronto Star Touch, the free tablet app from Toronto Star.

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No Raptors in this year's dunk contest

NBA

DeRozan pulls out, says Powell should have been given shot

The NBA announced its participants in this year's all-star weekend slam dunk contest on Thursday night and Toronto will be involved in location only.

Defending dunk champ Zach LaVine of the Minnesota Timberwolves, Andre Drummond of the Detroit Pistons, Denver Nuggets guard Will Barton and Orlando Magic forward Aaron Gordon were named as this year's participants, as first reported Wednesday night by the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

LaVine electrified fans in last year's dunk contest, but the rest of the cast doesn't make a compelling argument for fans to tune in Feb. 13, especially for Raptors fans who may have been looking for a familiar face to be involved.

Norman Powell of the Raptors dunks the ball against the Philadelphia 76ers. JESSE D. GARRABRANT/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

Raptors guard DeMar Derozan is a two-time participant in the dunk contest and put some serious thought into giving it a third try, just to be that familiar face at the Air Canada Centre.

"I did (think about it) but physically I wasn't up to it," he said on Thursday morning, before the Raptors faced the Trail Blazers.

DeRozan and point guard Kyle Lowry will be suiting up in the big event on Sunday, but DeRozan said he would have liked to have at least seen a teammate out there on Saturday night.

"They should have let Norm (Powell) do it," he said. "I think he would have done a few things." While Powell is a high flier, the rookie guard out of UCLA just got his first start of the season Tuesday in Phoenix and is easily under the league's radar for these things.

"It was going to be fun," said Powell, disappointed to not be selected. "I don't think there was a better situation than being in Toronto, rookie, coming in and trying to give the fans something to look forward to, so definitely disappointed.

"But there's always next year." DeRozan said he'd like to see the dunk contest get back to pulling some high-profile players into it. LeBron James has never taken part in the all-star tradition and Toronto native and T-Wolves guard Andrew Wiggins has refused to take part, two years into his promising career.

"I think it'd be great for the fans if you look up and see all-stars doing it," DeRozan said. "I think that'd be entertaining. Not to take anything away from the guys who do it that a lot of people may not know, but I think it'd be a little better if (all-stars) would."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ALL-STAR GAME

Barkley endorses Toronto as host city

Count Hall of Famer Charles Barkley among those who think Toronto is an ideal place for the NBA all-star game.

Barkley, on a conference call with fellow stars-turned-television analysts Shaquille O'Neal and Kenny Smith on Thursday, called himself "a big Toronto fan."

"Canadian basketball's on a roll right now," said Barkley. "Look at the NBA draft the last couple of years.

"I go there every summer. I have a bunch of friends up there. I think it's one of the best kept secrets in the world."

The NBA all-star game will be held Feb. 14 at the Air Canada Centre, the first time it is to be played outside the United States. Barkley, the former league most valuable player who played in 11 all-star games, said Toronto fans showed how wild they can get during the Blue Jays' run to the Major League Baseball playoffs last season.

Charles Barkley GETTY IMAGES

"I think it will be great to shine the light on that city," he said. Former Houston Rockets star Kenny Smith said the game will help boost basketball north of the U.S. border and showcase the city to players, league executives and fans.

"What happens when you have the all-star game there is you have a celebration of all the best players, the best talent," said Smith. "So all of a sudden they get to be in a city for more than 24 hours and get to see the excitement.

"You saw it in Toronto last year when they were making a playoff run. There are a bunch of basketball fans in Canada that now have the opportunity to get seen." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GOLF

McIlroy 2 strokes off lead

Rory McIlroy started the defence of his Dubai Desert Classic title with a bogey but battled back to post a 4-under 68 on Thursday, leaving him two shots off the lead.

McIlroy bogeyed two of the easiest holes on the course — the par-5 10th, which was his first hole, and the driveable par-4 second — but also had six birdies to put him close behind leader Alex Noren of Sweden.

"I thought I did well, considering the start and having some of the shots I hit throughout the round," McIlroy said. "A 68 was probably a fair reflection of how I played. I don't feel like I could have really gone any lower than that but at the same time, I gave myself enough chances to make some birdies."

Ernie Els, the most successful player in the history of the tournament with three titles and eight other top-10 finishes, matched McIlroy's 68. The four-time major champion hit 17 greens and putted well with his new grip.

Four players were tied at 5-under 67 — Sweden's Peter Hanson, Spain's Rafael Cabrera-Bello, Australia's Brett Rumford and South African Trevor Fisher Jr. Henrik Stenson of Sweden, playing alongside McIlroy, opened with a 3-under 69.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rory McIlroy GETTY IMAGES

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RECIPE Fried Egg Sandwich with Avocado Basil Spread

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This sandwich is so simple it almost makes us feel bad calling it a recipe. But then we remember just how good it is when the yolk oozes into the creamy, sweet avocado mixture and all those feeling wash away. Boy were we silly.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 15 minutes
Serves 2

Ingredients
- 1/2 avocado
- 5 basil leaves, torn into pieces
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- Butter for pan
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 shaved Monterey jack cheese
- Salt and pepper
- 4 slices of bread

Directions
1. In a small bowl, mix avocado until smooth. Stir in the lemon juice and pieces of basil.
2. Toast four slices of bread. Spread two slices with avocado mixture. Set aside.
3. Meanwhile, over medium heat, warm a skillet. Add 1 to 2 tsp of butter and allow to melt. Crack the eggs into the pan and leave until whites are nearly cooked then, so the yolks don't break, very gently flip eggs. Allow to cook a few more seconds, and then remove the eggs from the pan.
4. Place an egg on the two slices of bread without avocado spread. Sprinkle the warm egg with cheese as well as salt and pepper. Top the egg side of the sandwich with the slice of bread that has the avocado spread. Cut and serve.

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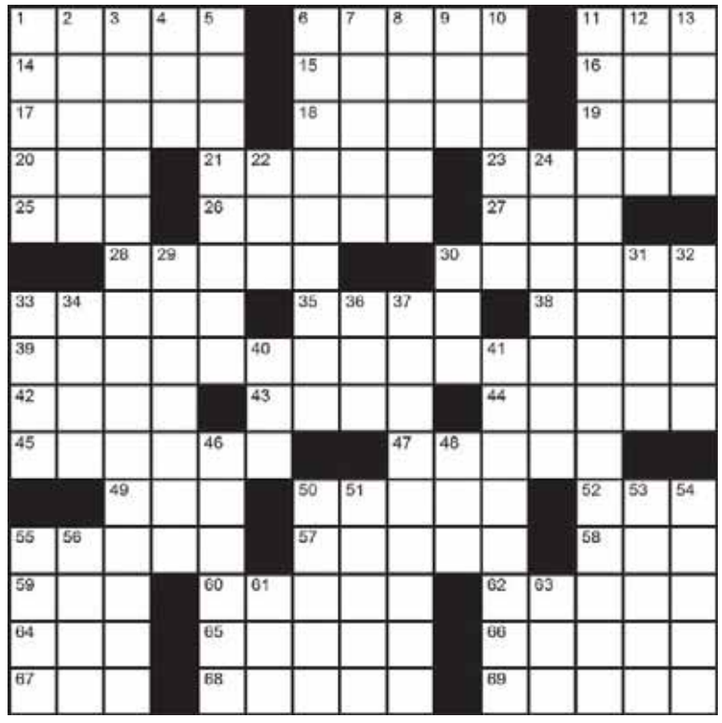

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42. Frankie Avalon's "__ Dinah"
43. "Take __ __ song..." - The Beatles
44. Nirvana album, with In
45. Prepares vegetables this way
47. Let's Talk Leftovers: "...as for the __, _ shall keep that for sandwiches tomorrow."
49. Cellular stuff
50. __ Lake Accord
52. Navigator's need
55. Not neat
57. Also: French
58. Pub pintful
59. "__ la la!"
60. Pressure units
62. Montreal-style __
64. Cuckoo bird type
65. Consonant seperators, frequently
66. Watchful
67. Cooking amt.
68. Fathom
69. Corrodes

DOWN
1. "Fiddler on the Roof" (1971) role
2. An archangel
3. Canadian Politics: In 2017, it'll be up for grabs for the Conservatives: 2 wds.
4. __ _ crossroads
5. Stupendous
6. Hair removers: 2 wds.
7. British actor Cary
8. Actress/singer Ms. Massey (b.1910 - d.1974)
9. Sun. delivery
10. Louisiana music style
11. In weather reports, they show things like storm systems swirling above the Earth: 2 wds.
12. Wing-like
13. Conspiracy
22. Jeans brand
24. Steve McQueen movie of 1968 with a big car chase scene
29. Inhabitants of South America's famous mountain chain
30. Pretoria's land [acronym]
31. Urgent situation, briefly
32. "I can only __ __ much." (I need assistance)
33. Tots up
34. Jackie Wilson's "__ Petite"
36. Cote cry!
37. Iconic character of classic Canadian TV: 2 wds.
40. '_' __ in Yukon
41. Seaweed-wrapped appetizer establishment: 2 wds.
46. Washer and dryer company
48. Diana Krall's hubby's initials-sharers
50. Ms. Menounos of showbiz news
51. Across-the-Pond moneys
53. Watchful
54. Hides
55. Castle's protection
56. Geological periods
61. Over, poetically
63. House siding material, for short

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
What you wish for is what you'll get. Believe something good will happen and it most likely will, but if you believe something bad will happen then that's what will occur.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The sooner you stop blaming others the sooner you'll be able to take control of your fate. Whatever your problems are you still have room to maneuver. Your main task now is to take responsibility for who you are.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Your reluctance to hurt other people's feelings is holding you back. It's good that you consider others but you need to put your own needs and desires first.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You're on the verge of something big, something that could bring fame and fortune. Others want to be close to you so some of the glory rubs off on them. There's plenty to go round.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
The closer you get to Monday's new moon the more partnerships and relationships will come into play. Today and over the weekend be on the lookout for people whose big personalities mirror your own.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Even the most livewire of Virgos may start to feel jaded today and the reason is that you are doing too much. It is time to slow down. Don't do more, do less — but do it 10 times better.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You feel good about yourself at the moment and you should be using that feeling to create something substantial. You'll get the chance to do some remarkable things this week.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The people you feel closest to emotionally are feeling neglected. Spend time with them. Besides, the phase you have just been through was immensely busy and you deserve some down time.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
What happens in the run-up to the new moon on the 8th will make you realize how lucky you are to have certain people as friends. Be more sociable and adventurous than usual!

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Cosmic activity in the area of your chart that governs what you own and what you earn will bring money matters into sharper focus and you will become aware that certain people have been taking advantage of you.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There will rarely be a better time to start in a new direction. Be encouraged to leave old ways behind and explore uncharted territory. You're blessed with the spirit of adventure.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You have plenty to say — but make sure you can back up claims with facts and figures. Enemies will be looking for ways to trip you up. Don't make it easy for them.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		3	1				9	7
	1					4		
9					4			
5					2			
3	4	8			9	2	5	
2			3		6			8
6			9		8			5
1			2		7			3
	3	2				9	7	

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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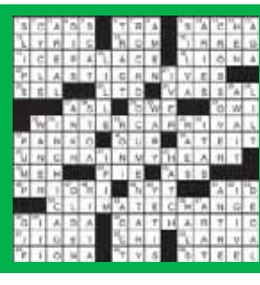

6	1	2	9	7	4	3	5	8
4	7	8	3	2	5	6	1	9
9	3	5	6	8	1	7	4	2
1	8	4	2	3	6	5	9	7
2	9	3	8	5	7	4	6	1
5	6	7	1	4	9	8	2	3
8	5	1	7	6	2	9	3	4
3	2	6	4	9	8	1	7	5
7	4	9	5	1	3	2	8	6

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